

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating on page 6 of the Office Action that "The structural relation of said welding posts being positioned within the perforated center tube ... is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record" and that "such a limitation added to the independent claims would place the application in condition for allowance." *Lines 13-16*. Due to the patentability of the claims in their current form, however, the independent claims are not amended in such a manner at this time. Instead, new claims 14 and 15 are added herein to further define the filter and method claimed in claims 1 and 9, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner. Support for these claims is present in Applicants' specification at page 4 and in Figure 3, for example.

The drawings were objected to because the reference number 16 and associated lead line were allegedly not included in any of the drawings. Applicants submit that since element 16 and its lead line are already included in FIG. 4A, the objection to the drawings should be removed. Also, the specification is amended to add an additional reference to Figure 4A and to correct typographical errors.

Claim 1 was objected to due to an informality. Applicants amend claim 1 to change "an" to "a." Accordingly, the basis for the objection has been removed.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to the use of the term "PA66GF33." PA66GF33 is known to be a glass fiber reinforced nylon. *See, e.g., www.ides.com*. Accordingly, claim 7 is amended to change "PA66GF33" to "glass fiber reinforced nylon." Thus, claim 7 is definite.

Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leason et al (US 5,049,274; hereinafter "Leason"); and claims 7

and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Leason. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.

Applicants submit that Leason fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1 of the present application. In particular, Leason does not disclose the feature of “at least one set of registering weld posts on interior surfaces of said first and second shells.” The weld posts of the present invention are illustrated, for example, in Figs. 4A – 4E as elements number 10. As illustrated, weld posts 10 penetrate (extend through) the filter medium 5 and, therefore, contribute to a support of the upper and the lower shells 2 and 3. As described in the first paragraph of the Detailed Description on page 2 of the application, “The two shells are each provided in a central region with a plurality of registering welding posts 10 which engage each other to prevent the housing from collapsing when the filter is subjected to a high pressure differential.”

In contrast thereto, Leason merely describes fluid flow spacer elements 25 and 35 (col. 4, lines 9 and 23) which are spaced relative to each other and which extend only up/down to the filter medium itself. As described in column 5 of Leason, the flow elements 25 and 35 are used to prevent the filter media 50 from contacting the base wall 2 and the cover wall 32, respectively. *See lines 48-56.* Thus, Leason’s flow elements 25 and 35 do not correspond to the registering weld posts claimed in claim 1. Moreover, one skilled in the art who is aware of this reference would thus arrange such flow elements which would not achieve any mutual support of the upper and lower shells. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Leason.

Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable over Leason for reasons analogous to those for claim 1. Also, claims 2-8 and 10-15 are patentable due to their dependence from claims 1 and 9, respectively. Moreover, Leason fails to teach or suggest the limitations of new claims 14 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.51571US).

Respectfully submitted,

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J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269

Cameron W. Beddard
Registration No. 46,545

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDE:CWB:crr
4823128